

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of contraception comprising the step of:  
administering to a menstruating female a cycle of contraceptive therapy, each cycle of therapy including the transdermal administration of a combination of ethinyl estradiol and norelgestromin for at least 42 successive days, wherein said method provides enhanced bleeding control and enhanced continuation and satisfaction rates in menstruating females using said method, wherein said enhanced bleeding control and enhanced continuation and satisfaction rates are characterized by longer median time-to-first bleed, fewer mean bleeding days and reduced median incidence of headaches.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each cycle of therapy includes 56 consecutive days of therapy.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein each cycle includes 56 consecutive days of contraceptive therapy and a hormone-free period following the 56 consecutive days of contraceptive therapy.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the hormone-free period is from 4-8 days.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 150 µg of norelgestromin are administered daily.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)